THE CITY.

MILITARY.

RECRUITING.

Councils yesterday passed over the Mayor's veto the ordinance appropriating $400 to each volunteer credited to the city of Philadelphia for one year; and giving to citizens the sum of $300 each for each substitute put in by them for three years. Recruiting since the issuing of the President's last call in this city has been virtually at a stand, owing no doubt to the larger amounts given in adjoining States and counties, and to the doubtful condition in which the amount to be given to our volunteers was allowed to remain. Now that the matter is a certainty, it is to be hoped that the several ward committees will be at work, and we may yet in the time that remains fill our quota and avoid conscription.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE. HON. WM. M. MEREDITH AND THE UNION LEAGUE.

At the annual meeting of the Union League of Philadelphia, held December 12, 1864, Charles Gibbons, Esq., read the following letter from the Hon. Wm. M. Meredith, declining to be considered a candidate for re-election as president of the League:

HARRISBURG, December 10, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR: The formation of the Union League was an experiment of which, at the time, I had doubts as to the success. Its objects appeared to be so vitally material to the interests and even safety of the Republic, that I felt not at liberty to refuse the honorable post of president. My acceptance of which the members were partial enough to consider desirable. The recent elections have shown that the principles which the League was formed to vindicate are now firmly established in the hearts of our people. The state of my health, and my necessary frequent attendance from home, prevent me from taking an active part in the conduct of the institution, and I, therefore, feel under the circumstances, that it would be decline a re election. I beg that you will do me the favor to communicate this determination to the members of the League.

I am, with great esteem, very truly yours,
WM. M. MEREDITH.

CHARLES GIBBONS, Esq.

On motion of Mr. Gibbons, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz: Resolved, That the League, and were transmitted to the Hon. William M. Meredith, together with the gold medal of the League, by the secretary of the meeting:

UNION LEAGUE HOUSE, January 11, 1865.

HON. WM. M. MEREDITH—DEAR SIR: At the annual meeting of the Union League of Philadelphia, held on the 12th day of December, 1864, I was instructed to transmit to you the gold medal of the League, together with the accompanying resolutions, which were unanimously passed by the meeting.

Resolved, That the members of the Union League of Philadelphia, regretting the retirement of the Hon. Wm. M. Meredith from the presidency of the League, present to him their grateful thanks for the valuable services which he has rendered to the State and country, during his connection with the State administration, in the prosecution of the great objects for which the League was formed.

Resolved, That in testimony of our high appreciation of the eminent worth of Mr. Meredith, the directors be and they are hereby requested to present to him the gold medal of the League, with a copy of these resolutions, and to place his name on the roll of honorary membership.

I have the honor to remain your obedient servant,
GEO. H. BOKER, Secretary.

On the receipt of these resolutions and the accompanying medal, Mr. Meredith replied as follows:

HARRISBURG, Jan. 16, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: On my return yesterday from an absence of a week, I find your letter of the 11th of this month, communicating the resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the Union League on the 12th of December last, and accompanied by the gold medal of the League.

I owe everything to the people of Philadelphia. In youth their confidence and regard were freely given, that I might be encouraged to deserve them. The recollection cognizance of those has cheered the toils of a not idle life. The honorable place in their most valued regard, as their remembrance will be the most valued inheritance of my children. With these feelings, I need not say how sensible I am of the flattering tokens of approval which you transmit to me on behalf of a body so numerous, so worthy, and so esteemed as are my friends who compose the Union League.

I am, sir, with great esteem,
Very truly yours,
W. M. MEREDITH.

GEORGE H. BOKER, Esq., Secretary Union League.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

The Eclectic College commencement took place yesterday afternoon, at the corner Sixth and Callowhill streets. The degree of the college was conferred upon the following named graduates:

Robert McClure, Penna. Asa Jones, Penna. Wm. Shiffler, Penna. J. Thompson, Penna. Edw. Quituns, Penna. Joseph Fisher, Penna. Henry Rumfort, Pa. David Paul, Penna. Richard Jones, Penna. D. D. Kline, Penna. R. A. Sampson, Penna. J. H. Buhtle, Penna. J. Isaacs, Penna. C. McKendsyl, Penna. Saml Morrison, Ind.
N. S. James, Ga. R. Burns, O. W. Edw. Downing, O. W. Joshua Helfrich, O. W. R. O. Corn, O. W. R. Sherbondy, O. W. J. C. Edwin, N. Y. H. J. Demmick, N. Y. G. S. Reed, N. Y. J. A. Burt, N. Y. Isaiah Conant, Mass. Albert Carroll, Mass. O. C. Bowing, Mass. O. A. King, Mass.

Honorary, Reuben Green, Boston.

The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. William Clark, and the exercises were closed with prayer by Rev. J. T. Goodrich, of the Universalist Church.

THE GLEE CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—On Wednesday evening, the 25th inst. gave a concert at the lecture room connected with St. Paul's Church, Cheltenham. The room was crowded to its utmost capacity, and numbers of ladies and gentlemen were compelled to go away, owing to the want of accommodation. A programme was sung with great spirit, consisting of college songs, and some decidedly fine and appropriate, generally along patriotic pieces. We understand the Glee Club intend visiting Wilmington, Germantown, Burlington, Trenton, and West Chester, ending with a concert at the University at Easter.

VOTE OF THANKS.

At a meeting of the Colored People's Union League, held last evening at their hall, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the Hon. Mr. Lowry, of the Senate, for the eloquent and able manner he has advocated the rights of our people to enjoy equal privileges in all the city passenger cars.

After some further business, the meeting adjourned.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Coroner Taylor yesterday held an inquest upon the remains of the victims of the explosion at the firework establishment in West Philadelphia, on the day previous. The most thorough investigation was made during five hours, but no evidence could be elicited tending to throw any light upon the subject. The jury rendered the following verdict:

That Philip Fleyhouse, Edward Colwell, John Kain, and John E. McCue came to their death, on the morning of the 26th of January, 1865, from an explosion of fireworks at the shop of Chas. Fry, on Market street, below Forty-first; we are unable to have from the testimony before us, what was the cause of said explosion, the only persons who could have given any information upon that subject being the deceased, and they having been almost instantly killed.

CITY COUNCILS.

Both branches of Councils held a stated meeting yesterday afternoon.

SELECT BRANCH.

JAMES LYONS, Esq., president, in the chair.

MR. ZANS (U.) introduced a resolution granting authority to the Second and Third streets Passenger Railway Company to stand their cars at Frankford road and Harrison street for five minutes after the arrival of the train of the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company, which was passed.

On motion of Mr. MAUGHT (U.) the Committee went into an election for trustees of the Gas Works for three years. Messrs. Nathan Hilles and Wm. H. Barnes were elected.

The Chair presented a message from the Mayor, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,
January 26, 1865.

To the President and Members of the Select Council of the City of Philadelphia:

GENTLEMEN: The bill entitled a "Supplement to an ordinance to make an appropriation for the payment of bounty to volunteers, approved the 3d day of January, A. D. 1865," is returned without my signature. The rates of bounty which it proposes in the stead of those offered by the ordinance of January 3d, are so disproportioned to the respective periods of enlistment that they would discriminate in favor of service for one year to the discouragement and probable hindrance of recruits for longer terms. Although the immediate purpose of a bounty is to save the community from the hardships and discomfort of a draft, that end should not be sought without proper consideration for the character and efficiency of the aid that shall thus be afforded to the national service. The inducement offered to volunteers at until greatly preponderate for enlistments of three years, as the value of military service is usually commensurate with their discipline and experience. The mode recently adopted in computing the quota of each district gives credit for the aggregate years of service that it has contributed, and not for the numerical force that it has furnished. The bounties for enlistments for the longest service will best avail the city in the event of a further call in a merely financial view one recruit for three years is equivalent to three recruits for one year severally, but, for the requirements of the service, a full quota of volunteers for the shorter period will be equally serviceable in obtaining credit upon the assigned quota. The existing ordinance equitably adjusts the bounty according to the several terms of enlistment, and its rates should be substantially adhered to if Councils should be of opinion that it is expedient to increase the amounts to be offered by the city.

With the prevalent anticipation of an early close of the war, the bounty offered will be a serious sacrifice as an inducement to enlist without reference to the period of service. The city, having been forced for its own protection to contribute largely in the payment of bounties, should provide liberally for those who will enlist to its credit; but, having determined what compensation is to be given, there should be no competition in rates with other communities.

My assent has been withheld only from the first section of the bill, as I deem it politic that sufficient encouragement should be extended to enrolled citizens to induce them to furnish substitutes, and I would therefore recommend that Councils should adopt the provisions of the second section, or others to the same purport.

Financial considerations have also prevented my concurrence in the accompanying bill. The late Councils appropriated for bounties a million of dollars, without authorizing the loan by which such sum could be realized. The prompt payment of these bounties was due to the volunteers who had entitled by their indescribed and extraordinary efforts were required to provide the necessary funds. The liabilities thus incurred are still outstanding. No loan can be negotiated for two weeks to come from which aid can be obtained. After careful inquiry into the immediate and prospective resources of the city, I am satisfied that the demand which might arise under the provisions of this bill could not be promptly met, and that the loans of bounty warrants without the probability of their immediate payment, would but impair the credit of the city and unfavorably affect the negotiation of the loans that will be presently authorized to fund deficiencies and to make provision for other disbursements.

Respectfully, ALEXANDER HENRY,
Mayor of Philadelphia.

The bill was passed over the veto of the Mayor by a vote of yeas 17, nays 5.

The ordinance making an appropriation of $101,625 to the Fire Department, for 1865, was taken up in committee of the whole.

MR. SPERING moved to strike out item 5, appropriating $400 to each of the following named companies: Columbia, Friendship, Reliance, Spring Garden, and Western Engine companies.

MR. MARCUS called attention to the fact that the Western and Spring Garden companies had been located as steam fire engine companies.

MR. SPERING amended his amendment to strike out the appropriation to the Columbia, Friendship, and Reliance companies. Not agreed to.

The committee rose, and reported the bill without amendment.

The Chamber considered the bill, and it was passed.

The bill making an appropriation to the Board of School Directors was again taken up.

MR. HOUSE (U.) renewed his amendment to increase the pay of male teachers as the Board of Controllers may elect twenty per cent.

MR. RYCHNIS (U.) urged the passage of the amendment, saying that the teachers could not live in alleys, and were expected to appear in respectable costume.

MR. BARLOW (U.) said that if all the male teachers were to resign, he could find twenty men of culture and refinement to take the place of each of them at the same salary they now obtain. So far as physical labor is concerned, it was only that of opening the boys. These male teachers only worked five hours in twenty-four, and there were but few of them who taught in private. He was strongly in favor of giving the female teachers a fair increase of pay.

MR. RYCHNIS (U.) said he offered his amendment in good faith with a view of increasing the salaries of all of the male teachers, and he thought the gentleman from the First ward had been sufficiently long connected with schools to appreciate the male teachers.

The vote upon the amendment was as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Gray, Kamerly, King, Marcus, Riche, Ritchie, Sherm, Van Cleve, Wagner, Lynd, president—10.

NAYS—Messrs. Armstrong, Barlow, Brightly, Cattell, Freeman, Hogdon, Hopkins, Jones, Manuel, McElroy, Omerly, O'Rourke, Shallcross, Spering, Zane—16.

The bill then passed.

The Chamber proceeded to that of Common Council for the purpose of electing railroad directors.

The bill making an appropriation of $22,000 to the Department of Surveys was passed.

MR. JONES presented a petition for opening York street. Referred to the Committee on Highways.

The CHAIR presented a communication from the Mayor, in which it presented a letter from the Provost Marshal General's office, rendering the quota of the city, exclusive of credits, under the last call for volunteers, as follows:

First district	1,936
Second "	2,569
Third "	2,912
Fourth "	2,523
Fifth "	1,548
Total	11,486

The bill from the Common Council, relative to the women who work for the Arsenal, was concurred in.

Adjourned.

COMMON BRANCH.

President STOKLEY (U) in the chair.

JOINT CONVENTION.

Mr. MAROUS (U.) offered a resolution requesting Select Council to meet Common Council in joint convention at half-past four o'clock, to elect three directors for the Philadelphia and Erie, and two directors for the North Pennsylvania Railroad Companies. Agreed to.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following communications were received and referred:

One from Dr. James Kelley, director of vaccine cases in the Seventh and Eighth wards, asking for an increase of pay.

One from the trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works, asking for an appropriation to pay deficiencies for the past year.

One from the several assessors, asking for pay in making up the militia lists for 1864. Read and referred.

A petition of citizens asking for the paving and grading of Twenty-first street, north of Washington avenue.

A resolution fixing the compensation of the Receiver of Taxes in the Twenty-third ward was referred.

TRUSTEES OF THE GAS WORKS.

Mr. MAROUS (U.) moved to go into an election for two trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works, for the ensuing three years. Agreed to.

The following nominations were made: James McManus, Charles A. Muller, H. M. Phillips, Alex. Conway. Messrs. McManus and Miller were elected, each receiving 26 votes, and Phillips and Conway 10 votes.

SURVEYS.

Mr. EVERMAN (U.), from the Committee on Surveys, reported an ordinance appropriating $450 for the Department of Surveys for the year 1865. Agreed to.

Also, an ordinance appropriating $450 for the further extension of a culvert on Frankford road, northward from Allen street, to Cohocksink Creek. Agreed to.

Also, an ordinance appropriating $5,000 for the construction of a sewer to drain the neighborhood of Thirty-seventh street and Lancaster avenue, Twenty-fourth ward.

Mr. BUMM (U.) moved to amend that the contracts be given to practical mechanics only. Lost. The ordinance passed.

Also, an ordinance appropriating $12,000 for the construction of a sewer on Penn street, near Berks, thence through Ninth and Tenth streets, Twentieth ward. Postponed till Thursday next.

THE BOUNTY BILL.

The Mayor having sent in with his veto the ordinance providing for the payment of bounties to volunteers,

Mr. WOLBERT (O.) moved that the Chamber go into a consideration of the subject. Agreed to.

Mr. WOLBERT (O.) hoped the bill would pass, notwithstanding the Mayor's veto. If it were not passed, those intending to enlist, out of duty to their families, would go to New York, New Jersey, and adjoining county towns, where they would receive large bounties.

Mr. BILLINGTON (U.) believed the Mayor was right in sending in his veto to sustain him. If we went on passing bounties to pay bounty jumpers the war would go on, there would be no men obtained, and the only thing that the bill would do would bring the city into disorder.

Mr. HARPER (U.) was in favor of sustaining the veto of the Mayor. He would be in favor of giving that portion of the one thousand dollars to place Jacob Snyder, one of the three-years' men that sum, and he had no doubt if we passed an ordinance giving three years' men one thousand dollars, some of them would be saved from a draft, and our quota filled speedily.

Mr. WOLBERT (O.) explained that the gentleman was wrong. There were no veterans who would go for three years, and a veteran was worth three raw recruits.

Mr. HETZEL (O.) knew there were many members in the Chamber who were opposed to giving bounties at all. He had talked outside to them, and he knew that the quibbles and objections they made were mere shams, and if a vote was taken in the Chamber whether they were in favor of having a draft or not, and they expressed their honest opinion on the subject, there would be a vote in favor of the bill, and it was opposed to the draft. The people were opposed to it, and we must maintain the will of the people, whatever the Mayor might say. There were many who to the war upon receiving large enough bounties, and while we could get such men, he was opposed to taking by force the bone and sinew of the land. He believed that Councils would override the Mayor by their unanimous vote that they were not going to have the city subjected to the disgrace and calamities attendant upon a conscription.

Mr. SIMPSON (U.) was opposed to the whole system; but as we had got into it there was no help for us, and we would have to continue it. He was in favor of an ordinance giving $400 to one-year recruits, $600 to two-year recruits, and $800 to three-year recruits.

Mr. WOLBERT (O.) called for the previous question. This being seconded by the requisite number cut off debate. The following is the vote on the passage of the bill, notwithstanding the veto of the Mayor:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Allen, Armstrong, Barnes, Brady, Bumm, Colehower, Creswell, Derbyshire, Dillon, Earnest, Evans, Fox, Gill, Griffiths, Haines, Hallowell, Hancock, Harrison, Hetzel, Huhn, Little, Mactague, Marcer, Miller, Mullin, Nickels, Peale, Schaffer, Sharpless, Simpson, Stanton, Sulger, Taylor, Vogleback, Willits, Wolbert.

NAYS—Messrs. Billington, Evans, Gratz, Harper, Krupp, Mankirk, Stokley.

The bill passed by yeas 32, nays 7.

The ordinance from Select Council, relative to the Second and Third Street Passenger Railway Company, was concurred in.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BOUNTY BILL.

Mr. SIMPSON (U.) offered an ordinance supplemental to the ordinance providing for the payment of bounties to volunteers, which gives one-year volunteers $400, two years, $700, and three years, $1,000